

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for authorizing a network request, the request routed
2 though a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:
3 communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network
4 address from which the network request originated; and
5 accepting the network request only upon a determination that the
6 identified network address is authorized.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein communicating comprises
2 communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which the
3 network request originated.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of communicating and
2 accepting are performed by the network device.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising reporting use data upon
2 accepting the network request.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising accessing policy data to
2 determine if the identified network address is authorized.
- 1 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 accessing policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing
3 information for one or more authorized network address;
4 recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network
5 address specified by the policy data and obtaining billing information for the
6 identified network address; and
7 reporting use data based on the obtained billing information.

1 7. A method for printing comprising:
2 receiving a print request routed through a network infrastructure;
3 communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network
4 address from which the print request originated;
5 determining if the identified network address is authorized; and
6 acting upon the print request only if the identified network address is
7 determined to be authorized.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating comprises
2 communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which the
3 network request originated.

1 9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the acts of receiving,
2 communicating, and determining are all performed by a printing device
3 responsible for acting on the print request.

1 10. The method of Claim 7, further comprising reporting use data if the
2 print request is acted upon.

1 11. The method of Claim 7, wherein determining comprises accessing
2 policy data specifying authorized network addresses, and searching the policy
3 data for the identified network address.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein determining further comprises
2 recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network address
3 specified by the policy data, and wherein the policy data includes billing
4 information for the identified network address, the method further comprising
5 reporting use data based upon the billing information.

1 13. A computer readable medium having instructions for:
2 communicating with a network infrastructure through which a network
3 request was routed to identify a network address from which the network
4 request originated; and

5 accepting the network request only upon a determination that the
6 identified network address is authorized.

1 14. The medium of Claim 13, wherein the instruction for
2 communicating include instructions for communicating with the network
3 infrastructure to identify a port from which the network request originated.

1 15. The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for reporting
2 use data upon accepting the network request.

1 16. The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for accessing
2 policy data to determine if the identified network address is authorized.

1 17. The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for:
2 accessing policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing
3 information for one or more authorized network address;
4 recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network
5 address specified by the policy data and obtaining billing information for the
6 identified network address; and
7 reporting use data based on the obtained billing information.

1 18. A computer readable medium having instructions for
2 receiving a print request routed through a network infrastructure;
3 communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network
4 address from which the print request originated;
5 determining if the identified network address is authorized; and
6 acting upon the print request only if the identified network address is
7 determined to be authorized.

1 19. The medium of Claim 18, wherein the instruction for
2 communicating include instructions for communicating with the network
3 infrastructure to identify a port from which the network request originated.

1 20. The medium of Claim 18, having further instructions for reporting
2 use data if the print request is acted upon.

1 21. The medium of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for determining
2 include instructions for accessing policy data specifying authorized network
3 addresses and searching the policy data for the identified network address.

1 22. The medium of Claim 21, wherein the identified network address is
2 recognized as an authorized network address specified by the policy data, and
3 wherein the policy data includes billing information for the identified network
4 address, the medium having further instructions for reporting use data based
5 upon the billing information.

1 23. A system for authorizing a network request, the request routed
2 through a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:
3 a source detector operable to communicate with the network
4 infrastructure to identify a network address from which the network request
5 originated; and
6 a request manager operable to accept the network request only upon a
7 determination that the identified network address is authorized.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the a source detector is operable
2 to communicate with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which
3 the network request originated.

1 25. The system of Claim 23, wherein the source manager is operable
2 to report use data upon accepting the network request.

1 26. The system of Claim 23, wherein the source manager is operable
2 to access policy data to determine if the identified network address is
3 authorized.

1 27. The system of Claim 23, wherein the request manager is operable
2 to:
3 access policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing
4 information for one or more authorized network address;
5 recognize the identified network address as an authorized network
6 address specified by the policy data and obtain billing information for the
7 identified network address; and
8 report use data based on the obtained billing information.

1 28. The system of Claim 23, wherein the source detector and the
2 request manager are embedded in a network device.

1 29. A network printing device, comprising:
2 functional components operable to act on a print request;
3 a device server operable to receiving a print request routed through a
4 network infrastructure;
5 a source detector operable to communicate with the network
6 infrastructure to identify a network address from which the print request
7 originated; and
8 a request manager operable to determine if the identified network address
9 is authorized and to direct the functional components to act upon the print
10 request only if the identified network address is determined to be authorized.

1 30. The device of Claim 29, wherein the request manager is operable
2 to report use data if the print request is acted upon.

1 31. The device of Claim 29, wherein the source detector is operable to
2 determine if the identified network address is authorized by accessing policy
3 data specifying authorized network addresses and searching the policy data for
4 the identified network address.

1 32. The device of Claim 31, wherein, upon recognizing the identified
2 network address as an authorized network address specified by the policy data,

1 and wherein the policy data includes billing information for the identified
2 network address, the request manager is operable to report use data based upon
3 the billing information.

1 33. A system for authorizing a network request, the request routed
2 though a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:
3 a means for communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a
4 network address from which the network request originated; and
5 a means for accepting the network request only upon a determination
6 that the identified network address is authorized.

1 34. A network printing device, comprising:
2 functional components operable to act on a print request;
3 a means for receiving a print request routed through a network
4 infrastructure;
5 a means for communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a
6 network address from which the print request originated; and
7 a means for determining if the identified network address is authorized
8 and to direct the functional components to act upon the print request only if the
9 identified network address is determined to be authorized.